

Claims

- [c1] A process for recycling a workpiece having a rubber part and a metal part bonded together with the metal part having a surface exposed to the environment, comprising the steps of: A) heating a portion of the exposed metal surface using a flame; and B) while heating the metal in step (A), moving the flame relative to the exposed metal surface steadily so that substantially the entire exposed metal surface is heated by the flame; and C) continuing steps (A) and (B) to raise the bulk temperature of the metal piece until the rubber piece separates from the metal piece.
- [c2] A process as recited in claim 1, wherein the post-combustion product of the flame contacts the metal piece.
- [c3] A process as recited in claim 1, wherein the flame moves at a rate relative to the exposed metal surface at a rate of between about twenty and sixty cycles per minute.
- [c4] A process as recited in claim 1, wherein the metal piece is heated to a bulk temperature ranging from about 200°F to about 900°F (93.3°C to 482.2°C).

[c5] A process as recited in claim 1, wherein the flame is stationary and the workpiece is moved.